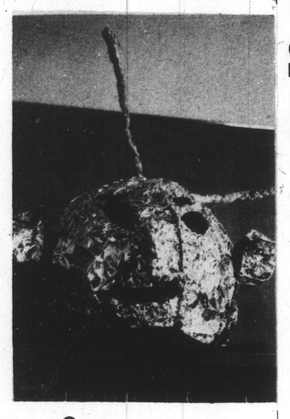
Nevada County Citizen

Vol. 1 No. 3 · 10¢ A Copy · THE PAPER WITH THE PICTURES · Nevada City Calif., Wednesday, October 28, 1959

MODERN SPOOK



Space-Age Halloween

By Donna Milhous

Halloween is almost here
And there's something that I fear
That all of us forgot about
Sputniks here, Sputniks there
a hundred beep beeps fill the air
And our spooks may have to take another route.

There simply isn't room
For a witch upon a broom
What with guided missiles zooming to and fro,
Ghosts will find it hard to fly
With those rockets going by
And the artificial moons.

With a little luck it's true
Spooks may manage to get through
But it will take a miracle no less.
God in heaven tell me do,
What this world is coming to
Sacrificing Holidays to Progress

N C Elementary Nips Junior High

The Nevada City Elementary School flag football team edged Nevada Union Junior High School 6-0 last week. It was the second victory of the year for the Colts.

The lone score came in the third period when Mike Conner passed to Den Painter, who caught the ball on the 15-yard line and scampered untouched to the end zone.

The Colt's Bruce Campbell broke away for a 60-yard run in the opening period but it was called back because of a penalty. Coach Norman Weitzel's Colts played Union Hill yesterday and will meet the Junior High School again Friday.

School Site Work Started

Bulldozers moved in to begin grading work last week on the Ridge Road site of the new $1,500,000 Nevada Union High School.

Grading and leveling work for the school site portion of the 64 acre campus is being done under a $38,000.00 contract.

The architect's final plans for the school are expected to be completed in 30-45 days, according to officials, and contractors will be asked to submit bids on the building itself sometime after the plans are received.

The construction bid probably won't be awarded until after the first of the year.

The building is expected to be ready for its first classes when school opens for the 1961-62 school year.

Still to be worked out are several major items, the foremost being sewage tie-ins.

The school board favors hooking up to the Grass Valley sewage system, but this would require an expensive extension of the city's existing lines and the bond issue requires that total cost of the new high school--including grading and architect's fees--be kept below $1,500,000.

Grass Valley has had to delay other needed improvements and extensions of its sewage system within the city limits of the city because of finances. Therefore it will probably be up to the school board to finance extension of the city's system to the building.

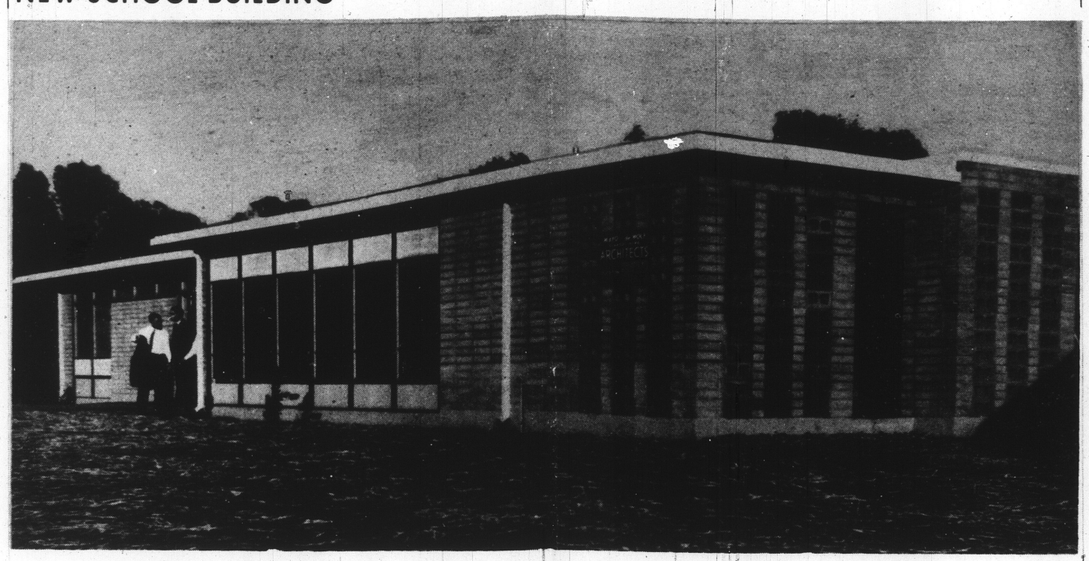
The board is now working on a plan to have other parties tie in on the line extension and help defray the cost of laying it.

If they are unsuccessful in this, according to Board Member Board Bob Paine, the board may have to work out a new sewage plan.

Grand Opening

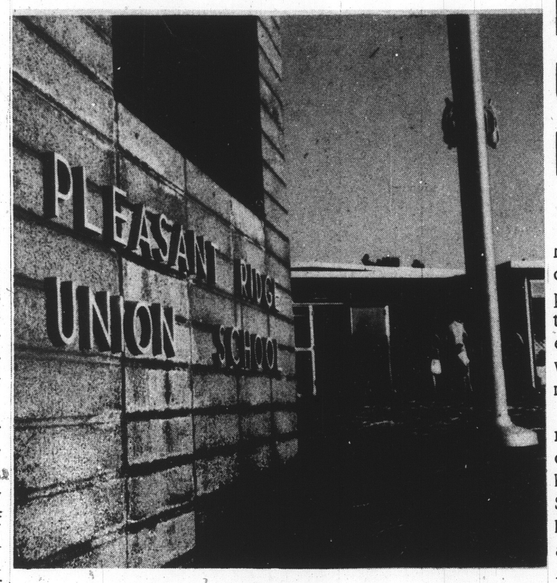
Mr. and Mrs. James Miller, new owners of the Ten to One Club in Nevada City, will have a grand opening at their place of business the night of November 10. There will be music and refreshments.

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING



Costing Nealy $240,000, it Replaces Three Former Schools

AND BELFRY



Far From Building

New Pleasant Ridge Union School Dedicated Sunday

The Pleasant Ridge Elementary School, built at a cost of $236,471 to handle pupils formerly assigned to the Lime Kiln, Wolf and Forest Springs school districts, was dedicated Sunday afternoon.

Taking part in the ceremony were Frank Van Fleet, chairman of the Pleasant Ridge School Board; County School Superintendent Ed Fellerson, and representatives of Mayo, DeWolf and Associates, Stockton, school architects, and the Lamon Construction Company, Yuba City builders of the school.

Located on Dugan Lane, three-and-one-half miles west of Highway 49, the new six-room school has an enrollment of 129 in grades one through eight.

Although it has been in use since the opening of the fall term, formal dedication of the building was delayed until Sunday because part of the furnishings were late in arriving.

The building contains, in addition to standard classrooms, a cafeteria, a classroom that can also be used as an auditorium, restrooms for both teachers and pupils and offices. There is a well-equipped and fenced-in play yard behind the building.

Several hundred people came to inspect the building and met the teachers in the course of the afternoon.

Mobile X-Ray Schedule Set

The mobile x-ray unit will be in Grass Valley on Tuesday, November 17th.

The unit will be at the Associated Service Station between 1 and 4 p.m. and 5 and 8 p.m.

Officials of the Nevada County Tuberculosis and Health Association are particularly anxious that all school personnel, food handlers, bartenders, barbers, beauticians and foster parents take advantage of this service.

Free Show Opening Highlight

There'll be elephants, lions, monkeys, clowns and other strange sights at the new See-Painter-Dilley store site this weekend.

To celebrate their grand opening, Bert See, PeeWee Painter and Joe Dilley are bringing in Ring Brothers Shows to amuse both the young and the young-at-heart.

Top attraction for the former will be free elephant rides. The pachyderms will also do some tricks during the show which lasts from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to the show, there will be free balloons, peanuts, popcorn and ice cream for those attending.

Snake Shot Ends Up Snake-Eyes

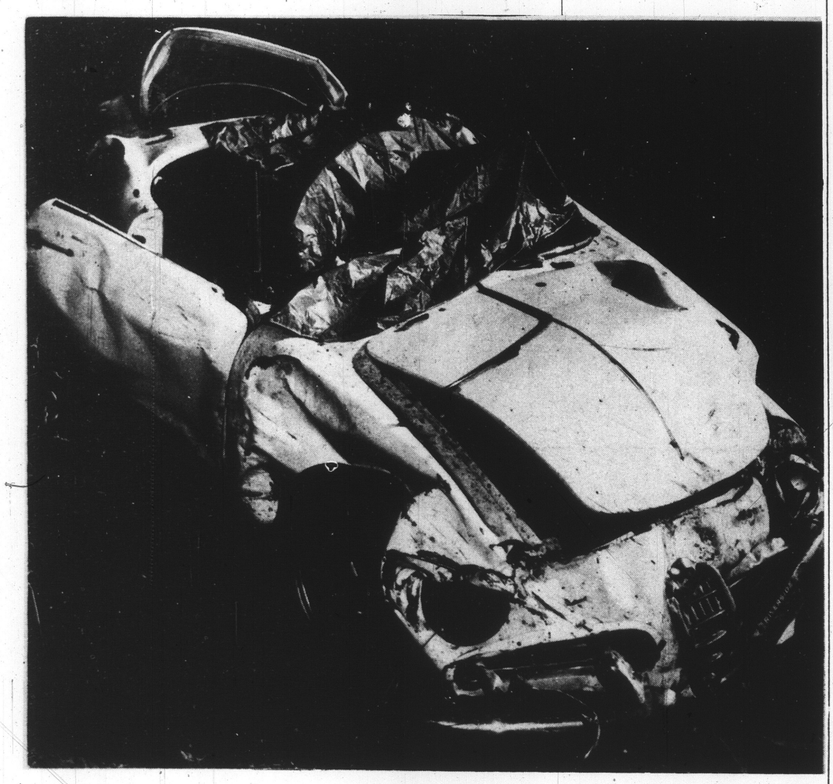
NORTH SAN JUAN--Figureatively speaking, Jerry Kisling shot snake-eyes last Saturday while attempting to shoot a snake.

Kisling, who lives on the Marysville Highway, was out deer hunting when he came across a snake in the grass. Kisling, who was carrying a pistol in addition to his deer rifle, pulled the smaller weapon out of its holster with the intention of sending the coiled reptile to snake heaven.

Unfortunately, Kisling pulled the trigger a little sooner than he hoped to and the bullet that was intended for the snake's head lodged, instead, in Jerry's leg.

The bullet didn't strike bone and lodged in the fleshy part of the leg without inflicting any great damage. It was, however, Kisling avers, almost as painful as it was embarassing.

DEATH CAR



Mrs. Ruth Katherine Cleghorn, 48, proprietor of a store at Columbia Hill, was instantly killed when this 1959 Alfa-sports car skidded off the Tyler Road Thursday afternoon and rolled sideways and end-over-end. Seriously injured in the crash was the driver and owner of the car, Mrs. Edra Inez McGrath, 46, also of Columbia Hill. Funeral services for Mrs. Cleghorn were conducted Monday, Bergemann Funeral Home in charge. The county's second traffic fatality of the year, Mrs. Cleghorn is survived by her husband, Arthur, and three children.

4-H Clubs Display Achievements

Projects on display at the annual 4-H Achievement Night program last Saturday at the Nevada Union High School gymnasium ran the gamut from electrical hook-ups, through cooking to the improvement and raising of livestock.

Those on hand for the display were told that 585 projects had been completed last year by the 335 members of western Nevada County's 13 4-H clubs. All told, 88.4 per cent of the area's 4-H members completed at least one project--an extremely high average.

The attending club members, parents and council committeemen were told that 48 county members have won national and state awards --the highest being the state sheep award won by Lois Magonigal.

Miss Magonigal, also a 1958 4-H All Star award winner, was introduced to the audience as were co-1958 All Star Kenneth Caspar and 1959 All-Stars Tom Casper of the Banner Club and Barbara Crowder of the Spring Hill club.

Orin Brown, chairman of the county 4-H council, was general chairman and master of ceremonies while Edwina Ellsworth was events chairman.

Music was the entertainment for the evening with Elouise and Jack Herr of the University of California at Davis leading the singing, Jan Toy and Earl Brown playing accordian and Michael Ellsworth on piano.

New Restaurant Opens Friday

The Victorian Room, a new dining room, will open for business Friday in the National Hotel in Nevada City.

Operated by the management of the Branding Iron Cafe, the Victorian Room will be in quarters formerly occupied by the Scandia, which replaced the Saddle and Sirloin Restaurant in the hotel.

The Victorian will be finished in late 19th Century decor and will feature meals in all price ranges.

Free Venison Stew Dinner Honors Official

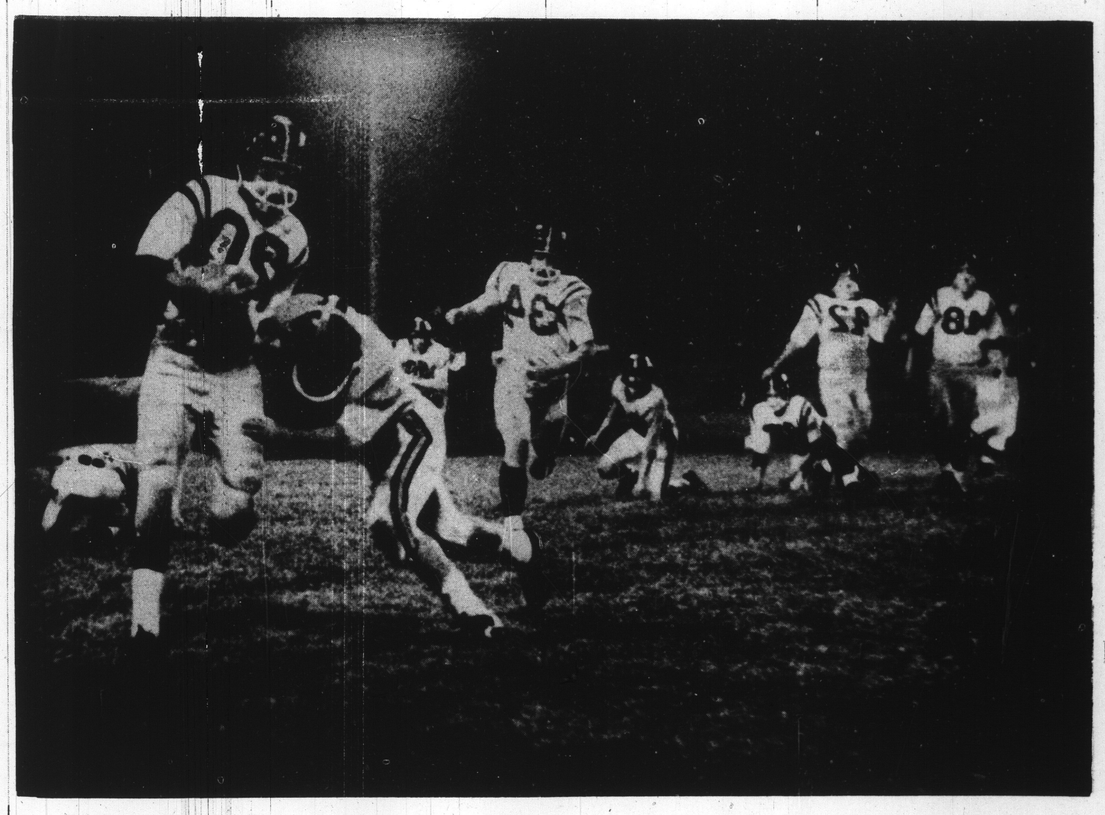
A venison stew dinner, free and open to the public, will be held in Grass Valley next month in honor of State Controller Alan Cranston. Hosts for the affair will be Dr. and Mrs. Walter Hawkins of Nevada City and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Nygard of Grass Valley.

The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, at the Veterans Building. It will mark the first appearance of Cranston in this area since his election to the State Controller's post last November.

A large group of notables is expected to be on hand, including State Senator Ron Cameron of Auburn and Assemblyman Paul Lunardi of Roseville.

Walter Butz will handle the preparation of the venison stew.

DAVID WILLIS SCORES



Halfback Starts Scoring Parade That Ended With Nevada Union Winning 26-6

Penalties Slow, But Don't Stop, Miners

The officials saw more holding in 48 minutes last Friday at Roseville than a peeping tom is apt to see in a week of snooping at a drive-in movie.

And everytime the men in the striped shirts detected this use of hands and arms it cost the Miners some ground.

In fact, the Miners were much more adept at stopping themselves than the clawless Roseville High School Tigers ever proved to be as Nevada Union dropped the home team 26-6 in a Sierra Foothills League contest.

The Miners had at least two other drives halted by 15-yard penalties for "illegal use of hands and arms," an infraction that used to be known by the simpler term of "holding".

It was the second relatively easy win in row for the Miners and left them with a 2-1 league record.

Speedy John Paye again paced the Miner attack as he scored on runs of 60, 35 and seven yards and piled up 265 yards in 16 carries for a 16-yard average for the evening. Dave Willis made the other touchdown, the first of the evening, on a seven-yard scramble in the opening period.

Alan Hutsinpiller, possibly the best defensive player on the Nevada Union squad, booted two extra points.

The Tigers scored their lone touchdown on a screen pass play that covered 79 yards. Quarterback Tony Hernandez threw to Byron Kaim who, after receiving a few key blocks near the line of scrimmage, simply outran the Miner secondary and safety to score.

Paye's performance gave him a three-game league record of 48 points scored and 528 yards in 46 attempts for an average of 11.38 per carry. His season rushing record is 916 yards in 99 carries for an average of 9.25 yards a try.

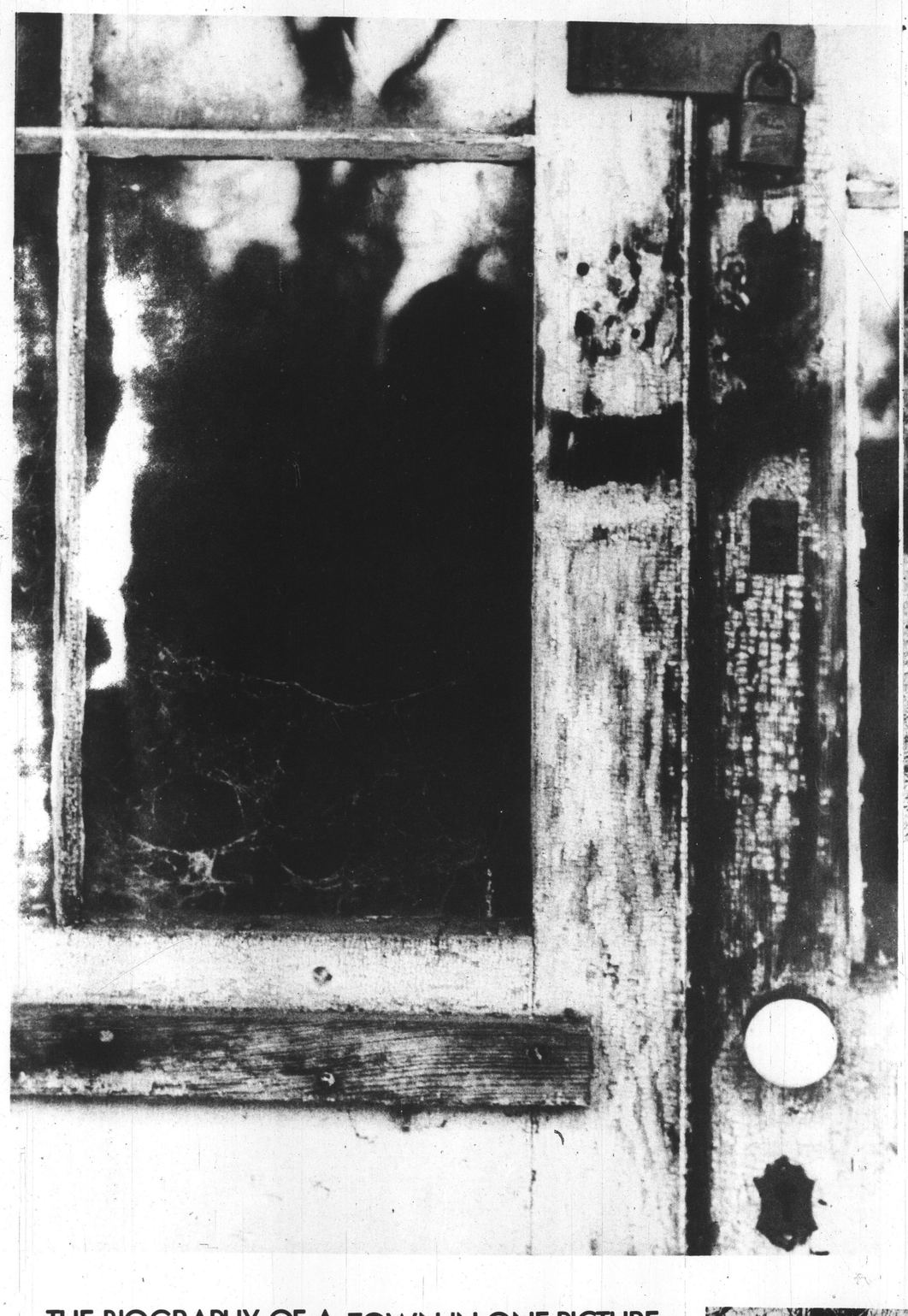
hopes to get an appointment to the Air Force Academy.

Other individual statistics for the game were: Dave Willis, 69 yards in 11 carries 6.60 average; Rick Miller, 20 yards, four carries, five yards average; Wally Castles, 10 yards, three carries, 3.33 average; Arvis Roberts, 14 yards, five carries, 2.8 average; John Shadburn, 7 yards, one carry, seven-yard average.

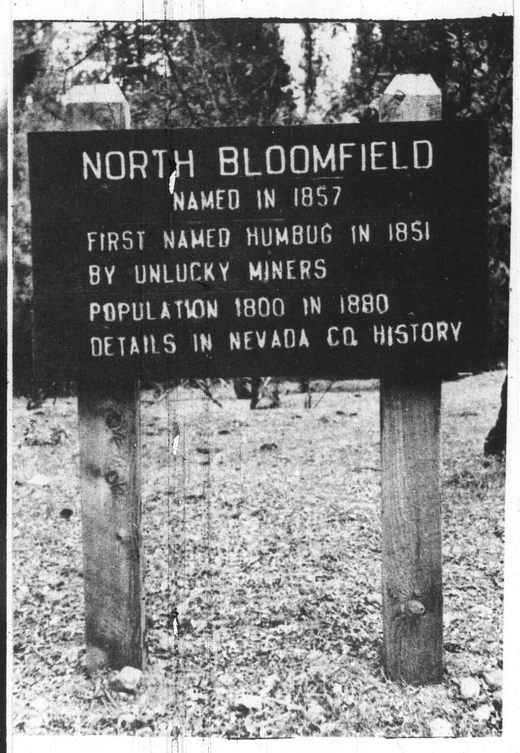
In the Jayvee game, the Nuggets knocked on the door repeatedly but were unable to gain entrance and had to settle for an unsatisfactory scoreless tie.

Next week the Miners will again be at the County Fair Grounds--this time for their annual Homecoming game.

North Bloomfield Lived Hard, Died Young



The Law That Saved the State Passed Death Sentence on the Town



SAME STORY ON A SIGN
Put There by Historical Society

NORTH BLOOMFIELD--A marker on the single street of this near ghost community tells those few people who make the tortuous trip here that in 1880, 1,800 persons called this home.

Like most gold mining towns of that era, it was a bustling, brawling place; hard as the muscles of the miners who constituted the greater part of its populace.

Just out of sight of the town, it's reason for being--the Malakoff Hydraulic Diggins--was working full time at eroding the countryside into a miniature Grand Canyon to uncover the countryside's considerable quantities of gold ore.

Then came 1884 and the Sawyer Act which made hydraulic mining of the Malakoff type impractical and the doom of North Bloomfield inevitable.

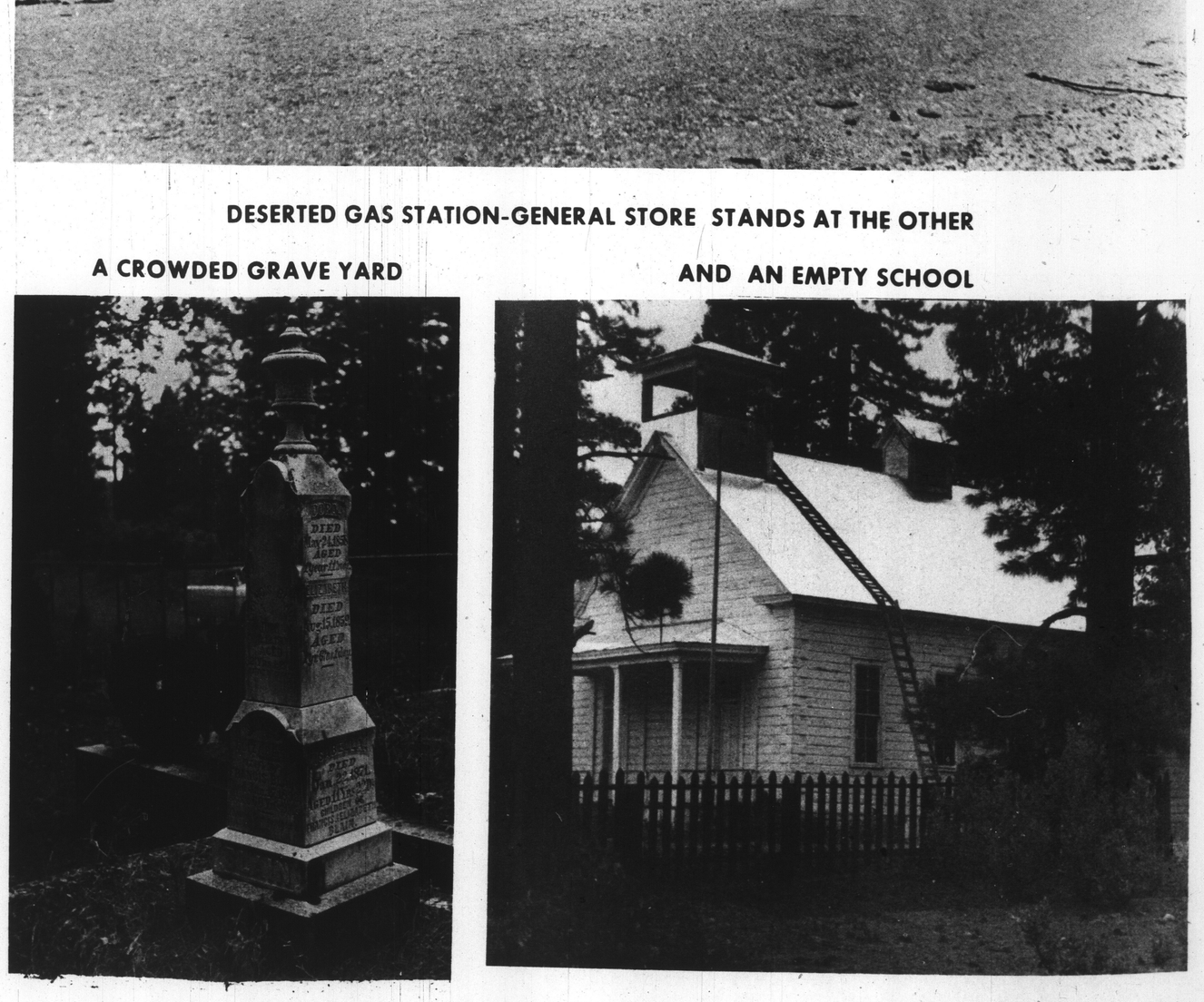
Others Shared Fate

Other communities--Lake City for instance--also passed into oblivion or near oblivion when the Malakoff ceased operation. It was a staggering blow to the area; one from which it has never recovered.

Today, North Bloomfield stands like a

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A TOWN IN ONE PICTURE

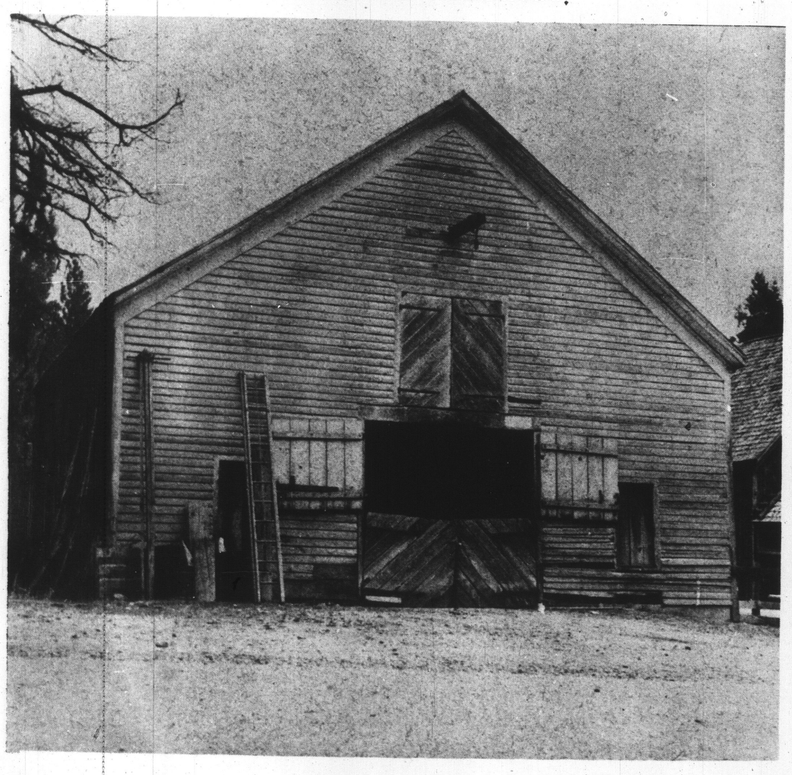
Peeled Paint, Padlock Cobwebs Tell North Bloomfield's Story



HOUSES WAIT AT ONE END OF STREET

DESERTED GAS STATION-GENERAL STORE STANDS AT THE OTHER

TOWN IS OLD BUILDINGS.



A CROWDED GRAVE YARD

AND AN EMPTY SCHOOL

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MEN'S C
732 Broad St

and Made a Photogenic Corpse

graveyard; each of its few remaining buildings a monument to a way of life that will never be forgotten even though it will never return. A handful of families make their permanent residences in the few houses that stand guard along its single street; a few more come here from other parts of the state for the Summer.

To one and all--fulltime or Summer citizen--the town offers little more than scenic beauty and memories.

Accessible only to those willing to make an arduous trip over roads that range from inadequate to criminal, North Bloomfield, never-the-less, does attract a few people.

Attracts Artists, Photographers

Primarily those who make the trip here are artists and photographers--two groups who are inordinately fascinated by the artistry of decay.

The decay they find here ranges from the unpainted and weather-silvered clapboards of the few buildings and the 19th Century fire hydrants that bear mute testimony to the fact that this was a modern community in its day, to the crumbling stone terrace walls constructed by Chinese to keep their vegetable gardens from eroding, to broken and abandoned safes that once guarded the wealth that has long since departed.

Waiting to be discovered by those curious enough to open doors and look is a hand-drawn hose cart that was the equippage of the North Bloomfield Fire Department.

Waiting also, is the old country graveyard adjacent to the North Bloomfield School; waiting, like the town itself, to tell through its wood and masonry markers the tale of people and dreams that soared and crashed with the town.

Yet, North Bloomfield--despite a lack of jobs, highways and entertainment facilities--is not all decay and death.

People still live here, and those that do show no signs of pulling out.

In fact there are even a few signs of growth and permanence. While disrepair, broken windows, sagging gates and doors still predominate here, two "downtown" houses are well-painted; one of them within the last month.

There is, as yet, no talk of "boom" here. But the growth fever that has reached epidemic proportions in the rest of the state and in parts of Nevada County may yet infect this isolated hamlet that was once a small city.

There's beauty here--furnished by Nature--and grandeur--furnished by Man bent upon defiling Nature in his quest for the glittering metal she hid here. One of these days, when roads are better, this beauty and the plentiful supply of water may again attract people to North Bloomfield.

May breathe life into the corpse of the town that was killed by a law that most informed people say "saved the state."

A GOOD OMEN

A Freshly-Painted House

A CITIZEN Photo-Feature on Life in Nevada County by Max Norris

WHOA JENNIE!

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NEVADA COUNTY CITIZEN AND CITIZEN-ADVERTISER

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EDITORIAL

The Uses of Fall

From our house we can see the top of Banner Mountain again. The bank of oak leaves separating us from our view has fallen away. Far to the east, the Sierra Crest is black against a pale blue sky. That ancient avenue of poplars at Union Hill is once again a bright fluttering yellow. Our dog had a misty breath as he moseyed outside this morning. And the sound of the neighbor's chopping comes hollow and hard through the woods, and tells us we should be chopping too.

It is the fall of the year, and we are reminded of the Fall of Man, the fall of cities and empires, the inevitable falling away from life which is the destiny of everything alive.

But if the season gives us pause, it sounds no curfews-quite the opposite. The air is clear and cool. The colors are bright. The sounds are sharp. The views are long. And nature seems to take us by the hand and bid us to reflect on our lives and our stations.

There are questions to be asked: Now that the haze and dust of summer have cleared, can we see how our own handwork squares with nature's? In the very midst of dying and decay, as nature looks to a renewal in the spring, can we also aim for a renewal in our lives? As nature shows us the beauty of God's world, can we find a corresponding beauty in the humdrum of daily life?

But perhaps these questions are not the most important The uses of fall are many, and each of us must discover his own.

Letters to the Editor

The Citizen will print any letters that are non-libelous and do not attack any religious or racial group. All letters must be signed by the writer, although The Citizen will gladly withhold the name on request.

This paper reserves the right to edit all letters for length and to delete any matter it considers in questionable taste.

Editor, The Nevada County Citizen:

Dear Sirs:

May I congratulate you on your new paper? It is such a nice sort of "homey" paper and I know you have put in long hours of careful thought and planning on it, to say nothing of the hard work you have had to do getting everything ship shape.

I enjoy "The Boy Reporter" to the Nth degree! He is tops. He must draw us more pictures sometime.

I have decided that if a ten year old can do it--why can't I--just this once? Of course I am more than six times David's age and I see things a bit differently. But here goes nothing!

"By Grandma"

Take this leaf falling business--now there is a problem for you and through Grandma's eyes it looks thus:

The leaves are beautiful--but they are much prettier when they are green because then they are on the trees and there's no raking or burning to be done.

Nature is a very wonderful old lady to say the least, but hasn't anyone ever told her about this litter-bug stuff? She's the worlds best at it, I know!

Take a look at my yard--what a mess! I have pine needles, too, you see. Great gobs of them before spring. One has to rake and re-rake all year 'round it seems.

Of course I'd hire a boy--but what boy where? The younger boys have measles, mumps and baseball. The older boys have wheels, hunting seasons and more wheels. Those who don't have them are desiring to buy them. But they don't want to take the leaf raking route to do so and I can't blame them. The pay for such jobs is small, for big boys.

Take me for instance, I can't rake them myself because I get the roop or something every time I do. So the only leaves, of mine, that get raked and burned are the ones that have blown in my neighbor's yards! So after they have their yards all nicely cleaned I look at mine and wish their leaves had all fallen in their yards and the wind had left them there.

Yes, David, leaves are nicer green and on the trees. It is a shame they have to become old and tired and drop off.

Grandma.

Two Women New Managers Of NC Bootery

Bennetts Bootery, 316 Broad Street, Nevada City, is now under new management.

Now running the store are Merilyn Gunter and Barbara Burns.

Both woman have had a great deal of experience in fitting and selling shoes and other clothing items.

Mrs. Gunter worked in Paradise, California, before coming here. The mother of three children, she is president of the Nevada City Elementary School PTA.

Mrs. Burns has five children and is president of the Parents Club of Gold Flat. She came to Nevada County from Alameda.

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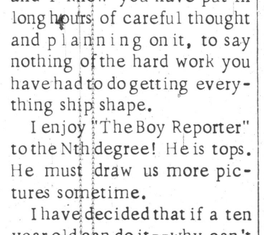

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Good Citizen Gertrude Blum (Bloom) Pursues Favorite Hobby

THE CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

"They tell me," said the man upon meeting Mrs. Edward W. Blum for the first time," that you have helped deliver half the babies that were born in the Chicago Park area in the past 20

"Oh no," replied Mrs. Blum, "I don't help deliver babies--I take care of them after they come home from the hospital."

Although Gertrude Blum has an occupation so unusual that she doesn't even know if there's an official name for it, she does it well enough that four doctors and a dentist have taken advantage of her services for their own infants.

Altogether, Mrs. Blum has cared for 15 babies since she entered this field in 1953 after her husband's health failed.

Since there is no readily recognizable name for what Mrs. Blum does, she generally has to define the depth and breadth of her duties for anyone who doesn't already know.

Here, in her own words, is what she does:

"I do everything. I take charge.

"As soon as the baby is brought home from the hospital, I take over most of the mother's duties.

"I bathe the baby, mix its formula, feed it. And at nights I keep them in the room with me." Mrs. Blum usually has to explain about here that she moves into the baby's home to perform her tasks and stays there until the mother feels she can carry on alone.

"It's usually about a month, sometimes less," according to Mrs. Blum.

"It used to be longer when times were good," added her husband. "You can always tell when hard times come, they don't want her to stay quite so long."

Keeps Busy

In addition to taking over everything involving the baby's care, Mrs. Blum also "tidies up a bit" around the house. But she is not hired to, and doesn't do heavy housework.

So far, she said, she has taken care of 15 area babies--the last one being one who was born in September.

Some parents have been so happy with her services on one baby that they have called her back again upon arrival of their next.

In addition to babies, Mrs. Blum has also taken care of older children when the parents have had to go out of town on stays of a month or so but could not, because of circumstances, take the children.

This too, involves leaving her husband along in the couple's home on Dog Bar Road, Chicago Park, to fend for himself.

"I don't mind it," he says of these periods of solitude. "I'm just glad she's able to do it."

"He's become a very good housekeeper," says Mrs. Blum. "And he's a good cook, but he won't go near the kitchen when I'm home to prepare meals."

Since Mrs. Blum entered into this unusual field on her own accord, it goes without saying that she likes it. But some of the things she enjoys most about her work are those that most people would like least.

For instance she insists, "I like getting up nights to care for a baby's needs.

"When they cry between 10 p.m. and two in the morning, I always enjoy that."

Since four doctors tacitly testify to the expertness of Mrs. Blum in the field of infant care, it should come as no surprise that she had a lot of experience in this line before 1953. "I had five children of my own--a son and four daughters", she says, when asked about her professional training.

A native of Wymore, Nebraska, Gertrude Blum, nee Sonntag, came to Nevada County in 1892 when she was three-years-old. She married pear and apple grower Edward Blum in 1920 and has remained in this area since except for a five-year stay in Oregon during the late 20s.

In addition to having an unusual job, she has a hobby that is just a little out-of-the-ordinary; she writes letters.

"And," she adds, "When a letter is written, it must go into the mail immediately. I don't like to keep people waiting."

Her regular correspondants include her four daughters (Son Ted is a next-door neighbor), four sisters and a flock of friends.

Her husband insists she has one other avocation: "Remembering birthdays and anniversaries. She's the world's best at that."

Of course I know my fiance's a slob

He's an impoverished 98-pound weakling with B.O., Pink Toothbrush, halitosis, dandruff and five o'clock shadow.
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Fool's Gold

BY MAX NORRIS

Well, the Citizen is three weeks old now and it's still keeping some of us up nights.

Still, we--the proud parents--have some hope for the kid. There have been those who have dropped by to tell us that he's a pretty baby and a bright one.

All of us here think so, but then we may be slightly prejudiced.

Anyhow, it took just two tries for me to amply demonstrate why this column is called Fool's Gold.

Like last week when I said "Somehow building a super highway that deadends at Nevada City makes about as much sense to me as sending snow plows to the Sahara."

Now taken in toto, I still believe in this statement. However, there definitely is a need for a good highway that would connect the proposed new route 20 around Grass Valley and the 20-49 cut-off above Nevada City.

Lumber Trucks Slow Traffic

Watching the lumber trucks that struggle through Nevada City's narrow streets and slowing traffic down to a near standstill on the hills has made a believer out of me--to an extent.

To the extent that I am not utterly opposed to a new highway.

But not to the extent that I am willing to see Nevada City divided and stripped of its landmarks and charm.

The numerous trucks loaded with heavy logs that rumble and struggle through this area every day should, for their own convenience and the safety of others--be routed on a wider, less tortuous road.

But why should this road go through Nevada City? The bulk of the traffic on Highways 20 and 49 goes through out of necessity--not because it originates or terminates in the community.

The logical place for a new highway is AROUND Nevada City. And I'll salute the State Highway Commission with 21 guns if they propose putting a freeway AROUND the town.

But, I'm still agin' it going THROUGH.

Stumpf Questioned

Getting to another subject--if only to prove there is more than one song in my repertoire--a man, who shall remain nameless to save him embarassment, stopped me on the street in Grass Valley to say, "Hey, I like that Sidney Stumpf. But tell me, he isn't for real is he? I mean, doesn't someone else there write Sidney's stuff under an assumed name?"

I hate to shatter people's faith--but Sidney Stumpf exists.

All the others--Alfred E. Heller (who ever heard of a for real name like that?), Margaret Abrahamson, Clarice McWhinney, Don Fairclough, even Max Norris (a sneaky sounding name if there ever ever was one), are mere figments of Sidney's warped imagination.

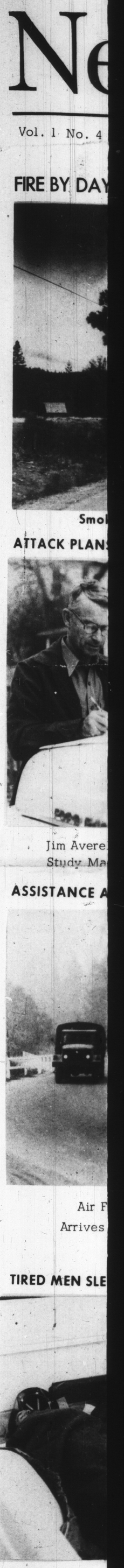
In the immortal words of Louis Armstrong (another product of Stumpf's inventive mind), "Dig man, here comes Mack the Knife."

It has also been called to my attention that some doubting souls think the "This Week in History" section of the paper is fabricated out of whole cheesecloth.

If there's anything in the whole world that gripes me, it's people who display their ignorance by tacitly admitting they've never heard of honest-to-goodness historical characters like Columbus Christopher, Thorton Schmerdley or Dr. Dilbert Dumwaiter.

Maybe I should turn my ire on the public schools though. Imagine an educational system so inadequate that it fails to tell our children about great men like the above-mentioned.

It's a sin and a crime and I'm going to complain to Bob Paine the next time I see him.

Funny thing, I haven't seen Bob for some time. Not since I burst into his office and insisted that the schools stop teaching Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution and switch to the later one propounded by Dr. Darwin Charles--namely that monkey decended from man. Paine insisted this would be insulting to the apes.

I get the feeling he's avoiding me.